among people about water conservation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has also been suggested to offer voluntary service, conducting various seminars and workshops in schools, colleges and offices in the direction of water conservation during this month; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government so far for implementation of the said suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister has made an appeal to the Nation to obseve July and August as "Water Months".

(b) Yes, Sir. Organising mass awareness activities like seminars, workshops and Shramdans all over the country in schools, colleges and work places have been suggested.

(c) The measures taken by Government for implementation of the said suggestions are as under:

- Conduction of Mass awareness programmes.
- Conduction of Seminars and workshops.
- Implementation of Water Harvesting/Conservation Schemes.

Water storage capacity of newly constructed reservoirs

†1780. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is essential to store and utilize the additional rain water and rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of large reservoirs in the country whose construction works was completed till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the total capacity of water storage of these reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. There

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

is large variation in time and space in rainfall, About 80% of the rainfall occurs during the monsoon period. Consequently, there is considerable variation in the availability of flows in the rivers from time to time within a year. Variations are also observed from year to year. Further, the requirements and the availability at different time also vary considerably. Therefore, it is considered necessary to store the available water in reservoirs whenever it is more than the requirements to utilize the same when requirement is more than the available flows.

(b) Total number of large reservoirs in the country is 3596.

(c) Total live storage capacity of these reservoirs is 177 billion cubic metre.

Demand and supply of water

1781. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last 50 years India has been reduced from a water-rich country to a water scarce country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to reverse the trend and take back the country to its original position and reduce the mismatch between the demand and supply of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The annual average flow in the river systems of the country is 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The per capita water availability in 1951 was 5177 cubic metre per year. With growth of population from 361 million in 1951 to 1027 million in 2001, the per capita water availability reduced to 1820 cubic metre per year. Due to variation in rainfall in space and time, the availability of water also varies from basin to basin in the country and in some of the basins, the per capita water availability is less than 1000 cubic metre per year. As per international criteria, a situation of annual per capita availability of water of less than 1000 cubic metre is considered as scarcity condition.

(b) The rapid growth of population has led to lesser per capita availability of water.